



News Release

For Immediate Release

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MAYOR COPENHAVER WELCOMES THE CSRA INNOVATION FAIR

AUGUSTA, Ga., Oct. 31, 2012 – Mayor Deke Copenhaver welcomes The CSRA Innovation Festival on Saturday, November 3rd at the Augusta State University Amphitheater from 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The events at the festival include:

- **Innovation Competition** – build something around the concept of improving mobility
- **Hackathon** – Hack for Education (Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. to Nov. 3 at noon)
- **Innovation Business Showcase** – display of innovations by organizations in the CSRA
- **Innovation Academic Fair** – display of innovations by students in the CSRA
- **Elevator Pitch Contest** – pitch your business idea in two minutes or less for cash
- **Coding Day Camp** – learn to program simple code; all ages are welcome
- **Deconstruction Derby** – take apart devices (e.g. televisions) to see how they work
- **Business Mentor Table** – receive advice regarding your idea or startup business
- **Live Entertainment** – hear and dance with local up and coming bands are featured

"The Innovation Festival is another fine example of the creative mindset emerging within our community while underscoring how innovation through collaboration will help shape and define our regional economy as we move forward," comments Mayor Copenhaver. "I applaud the organizers for their efforts and encourage everyone to consider attending the event to get a glimpse of the bright future which lies ahead for Augusta and our region as a whole."

Dr. Tony Robinson, one of the founders of the event further explains, "Events of this type have been shown to be effective ways to build an innovation culture. With that in mind, the broader goals of this event are to engage the community to foster a culture of innovation and collaboration through ongoing community activities, elevate the awareness of our existing strengths, regional assets, and opportunities for innovation and collaboration and educate the community about opportunities in four entrepreneurial areas – life sciences, energy, IT, and non-technical businesses."

The Hack for Education Hackathon is also a component of this event. Over the course of 18 hours, participants will work together to create technological solutions to multiple educational challenges. The hackathon will be divided into separate project zones sponsored by CMA Technology, Guardian Watch and Rural Sourcing. Hack Augusta and CSRA Makers worked together to create different projects for each zone that center on improving access to technology and creating resources for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in under privileged areas. Software developers, web programmers, graphic designers, and marketers are just a few examples of the types of people needed for the success of each project, but anyone who would like to help is welcome. Novices and experts alike can add to each project. Participants are encouraged to stay for the whole event, or just a few hours.

The event is open to the public, and we encourage students, innovators, families, and entrepreneurs of all ages to attend. For more information, please visit their website www.csrainnovationfestival.com or contact Dr. Tony Robinson at tony@csrainnovationfestival.com or Eric Parker at eric@conima.com.